

## Discussion of Fee Changes for CAEP/CTC Accreditation Visits June 2017

### Overview of this Report

This report provides the COA with an update on changes made by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) for state partnerships and institutions seeking national accreditation.

### Staff Recommendation

This item is for information and discussion only. No action is required.

### Background

Over the past year CAEP has restructured the policy for assessing fees on institutions and on states with which it has partnerships. California has had a longstanding partnership with CAEP's precursor (NCATE) and has an existing partnership agreement with CAEP to allow institutions that seek both national accreditation and state accreditation to have a joint visit. This allows these institutions a more streamlined approach to gathering data and preparing for a site visit team and allows efficiencies for both the national and state accreditation teams to gather information necessary for accreditation.

CAEP has noted in conversations with staff that the previous fee structure was not clear and the fees that states were charged were more based on a historical precedent than on an analysis of costs and expenses. Under the previous approach, California's annual fees for participating in NCATE/CAEP was approximately \$25,000. Historically, both the California Department of Education and the Commission shared the costs of this fee and in the past year, the entire cost was assumed by the Commission.

The new fee structure adopted by CAEP consists of a formula which is based upon its total state budget is \$450,000, (for all 50 states) and includes *fixed* (\$135,000) and *proportional* (\$315,000) expenses. States pay *fixed* costs of \$2,750 annually. Each state also pays a *percentage* of total costs, which is based on the proportion of the state's total number of educator preparation providers (EPPs), to *all* CAEP accredited Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs). States that elect to perform joint reviews will be assessed a *variable* amount of \$2,500 per joint review. The total joint review fees (\$2,500 x number of joint reviews), then, will be evenly invoiced over seven years reflecting CAEP's seven year accreditation cycle.

Specifically, for California the total cost of participating in joint visits for 2017-18 will be \$18, 340. This is based on the following:

The proportional amount is set at 2.44% (22 institutions/EPPS) of \$315,000, or ~\$7,690.

The joint visit fee for 22 joint visits x \$2,500 = \$55,000/7years = ~\$7,900.

Therefore, the total fees for California will be: \$2,750 (fixed) + \$7,690 (proportional) + \$7,900 (variable joint visit fee) = \$18,340.

If the Commission were to change its protocol and have concurrent visits rather than joint visits, the cost to the state would be \$10,440 (fixed cost of \$2,750 + proportional cost of \$7,690).

This results of this new fee structure is a decrease of approximately \$7,000 which is advantageous for the Commission's budget. However, Commission staff inquired of CAEP about the additional \$2,500 for conducting joint visits as it could be viewed as a disincentive for the national accrediting body and the state accrediting body to work together to allow for a streamlined process. In joint visits, the Commission appoints two California individuals to serve on the CAEP team. The Commission pays the travel and reimbursement costs for these two individuals. The work that these individuals do at the site visit and prior to the site visit serves to help prepare the CAEP visit report, and that report also serves in part as the Commission's Common Standards report.

In discussions with CAEP personnel, the rationale for the additional joint visit costs is that CAEP is providing a service to the states by states using some of the process and information gathered as a result of the site visit for state purposes. In addition, they noted that there were some additional costs such as training reviewers to be part of review teams.

The Commission staff will discuss the impact of this fee structure on the joint visits, the results of an informal survey conducted of Deans of Education at California CAEP accredited institutions about the additional \$2,500 fee for joint visits, and possible next steps for addressing this new fee structure.